

Message Text

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9085

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJ: DIRECTOR OF UN CENTER ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNCS)

REF: STATE 015629

1. CANADIAN MISOFF INFORMED US FEBRUARY 7 THAT SECRETARIAT NOW HAS THREE CANADIDATES FOR SUBJECT UN SECRETARTIAT POST: SOMAVIA, FOIGHEL AND ITALIAN, PRESUMABLY ZANELLI (SEE ROME 0905). UN SECRETARTIAT INFORMED CANADIANS THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON FILLING THE POST WITH ANY OF THE NAMES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO SYG WALDHEIM. NOR HAS ANY DECISION BEEN TAKEN ON APPOINTING AN INTERIM DIRECTOR.

2. CANADIANS UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES ON THE HORIZON BESIDES MR. G. ARSENIS (GREEK). THOSE MENTIONED ARE TWO MEMBERS OF THE ORGINAL GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS, MR. DIAWARA (IVORY COAST) AND MR. KAHAMA (TANZANIA). CANADIANS ALSO HEAR THAT UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL, REFEEUDDIN AHMED (PAKISTAN) IS BEING MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE "DARK HORSE", IN-HOUSE CANDIDATE.

3. USUN WILL ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM THIS SITUATION WITH APPROPRIATE SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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COMMENT: INVIEW OF APPARENT PROLIFERATION OF INTEREST

IN PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES THE DIRECTOR POST, USUN BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO WITHHOLD EXPRESSIONS OF USG SUPPORT FOR ANY SPECIFIC CANDIDATE. SO FAR, USUN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP MUCH OF A SENSE OF THE TYPE OF CANDIDATE LDC GOVERNMENTS MAY BE WILLING TO APPROVE. IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY DECISION ON THE POST WOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THE RETURN TO NEW YORK OF SYG WALDHEIM.

4. USUN FINDS ENCOURAGING THAT FORMER MONOPOLY OF SOMAVIA HAS BEEN DEFINITELY DECIMATED AND THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN CREATED TO PERMIT THE NAMES OF SUCH PEOPLE AS R. AHMED TO BE MENTIONED. AHMED IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR, RESOURCES AND PROGRAM PLANNING OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LAETHEM. HE PREVIOUSLY WAS SECRETARY OF THE ECOSOC. HE IS OBVIOUSLY VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE UN SYSTEM AND HAS BEEN AN IMPARTIAL, DILIGENT AND BRIGHT MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT. HE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY HELPFUL AND FRIENDLY IN HIS DEALING, OFTEN TIMES ON CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS, WITH USUN.

5. AMB RAE (CANADA) INFORMED AMB FERGUSON THAT THE CANADIANS HAVE FINALLY BECOME SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN FIELDING A CANDIDATE. THEY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY US ARGUMENT THAT CANADA IN UNIQUE POSITION AS BOTH HOST AND HOME FOR SUBSTANTIAL TRANSNATS. RAW INDICATES THAT FIRST PRELIMINARY DECISION WILL FOLLOW CABINET MEETING OTTAWA NEXT THURSDAY. END COMMENT.
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